



Results of the 2009 Treaty Waawaashkeshi (Deer) and Makwa (Bear) Hunting Seasons in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Wisconsin and Minnesota

by

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RESULTS OF THE 2009 TREATY WAAWAASHKESHI (DEER) AND MAKWA (BEAR) HUNTING SEASONS IN THE 1837 AND 1842 CEDED TERRITORIES IN WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA

Introduction

This report presents the results of the 2009 off-reservation waawaashkeshi (deer) and makwa (bear) hunting seasons in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Wisconsin and Minnesota (Figure 1). Hunters were members of the six Wisconsin Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Mille Lacs Chippewa Tribe (Minnesota) and the Fond du Lac Band (Minnesota). Harvest totals only are presented in this report for the Fond du Lac Band (FDL). Schrage (2010) reported details about other aspects of the FDL season. This report does not cover deer and bear hunting in Michigan. Harvest during the treaty hunting seasons in Michigan are reported by Falck (2010).

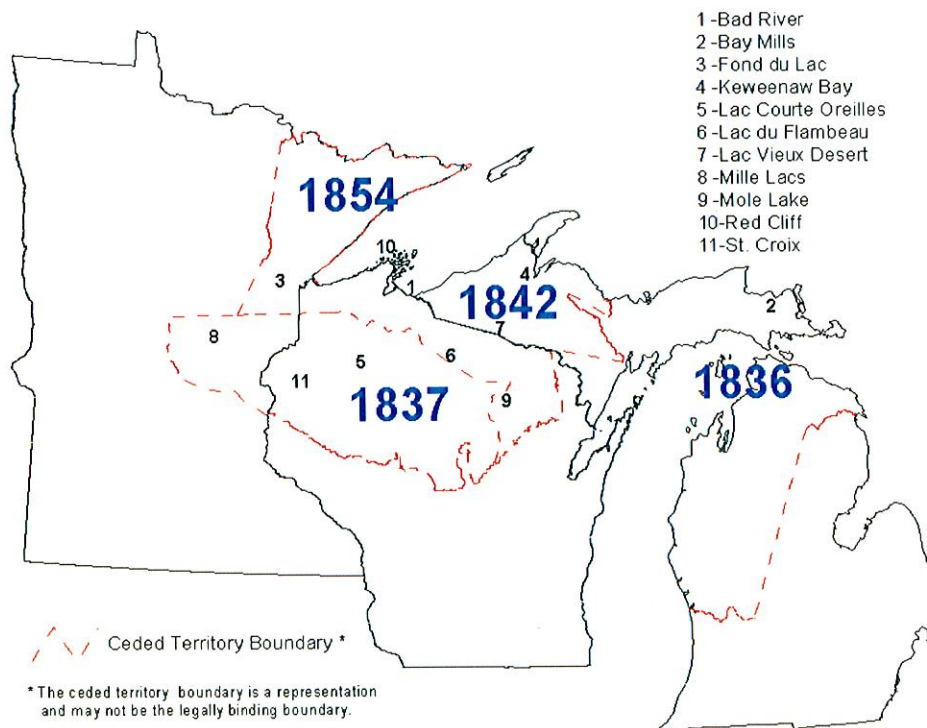


Figure 1. Location of the GLIFWC member tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Introduction (con't)

Tribal deer hunting regulations for members hunting in Wisconsin were enacted to comply with the rulings and stipulations resulting from the May 1990 Federal Court (7th Circuit) decision as modified by the *"2009 Stipulation for technical, management, and other updates: first amendment of stipulations incorporated into final judgement"*. In the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, season regulations were enacted to comply with the March 1997 Federal Court (8th Circuit) decision and subsequent wildlife management plans. In Wisconsin, these rules resulted in a season which was 117 days long starting September 8 and ending January 3, 2010. In Minnesota, hunting started on September 8 and ended on December 31, 2009. Hunting was permitted with either a bow or a gun in both states.

In 2009, the permit and registration system, first implemented in 1986 in Wisconsin, was continued in both the Wisconsin and Minnesota portions of the ceded territory. Some tribes authorized their members to receive up to 4 carcass tags at a time during specific portions of the season. Other tribes (i.e., Mille Lacs, Red Cliff, and Bad River) issued 2 tags at a time. Each deer, regardless of sex or age, was required to be tagged with a carcass tag and registered at a tribal registration station or with field wardens. Hunters could obtain an additional carcass tag upon registration of any deer. In order to shoot an antlerless deer (e.g. a doe or a fawn) in Wisconsin a hunter was required to obtain an antlerless deer permit that allowed the harvest of 2 deer of this type. Permits were valid for any deer management unit in Wisconsin where the quota of antlerless deer had not been filled. Permits, that used to be valid for only two weeks now were set to expire on November 1, December 1 and the end of the season. This resulted in 3 permit periods as contrasted with 7 permit periods previously. No antlerless deer permits were required to hunt antlerless deer in Minnesota. No hunter was allowed more than two antlerless permits at a time but there was no limit on the total number of antlerless permits issued for any unit as long as less than 75% of the quota had been harvested. In Wisconsin, after 75% of the quota had been harvested, permits were issued based on demonstrated success rates for that unit. Upon shooting an antlerless deer the hunter was required to slit the permit to show the unit in which the deer was shot. The permit could be replaced upon registration.

Commercial harvest of deer was permitted when the hunter's tribal government specifically authorized such a harvest. Bad River, Mole Lake and Red Cliff authorized commercial hunting in Wisconsin in 2008. Persons wishing to hunt antlerless deer for commercial purposes were required to obtain a commercial antlerless deer permit. Level 1 commercial antlerless deer permits were valid for specific zones, based on the location of registration and enabled the holder to harvest up to a total of 10 deer. If a hunter wished to harvest more than 10 deer for commercial purposes a level 2 commercial permit was required to be issued by the tribal council. There were no deer registered for commercial purposes in 2009.

In Minnesota various State Parks hold special hunts to reduce deer populations and the associated browsing, inside the park. In St. Croix State Park there were two hunts: the first (October 22 - 25) was for under-16 youth hunters, the second hunt was from November 13 through November 15 for all ages. This second hunt had an earn-a-buck regulation where hunters were required to shoot an antlerless deer prior to shooting an antlered buck. At Wild River State Park the hunt ran from November 4 through 7 and also included an earn-a-buck regulation. Finally, Crow Wing State Park had a special hunt for muzzleloaders only from December 4 through December 7.



Figure 2. Location of Deer Management Units in the ceded territory of Wisconsin and Minnesota

Deer Hunting Results

Carcass tags were issued to 2,493 deer hunters (Table 1). Tags were authorized to be issued to any member of the 6 Wisconsin bands and the Mille Lacs Chippewa Tribe. Members from FDL obtained tags from their tribal offices. Registration stations were established at each of these 8 reservations for issuing tags and permits and registering deer. Since 1995, an additional registration station has been open in St. Paul, MN to register deer from members living in or near the twin cities. Data from this station have been recorded with the LCO station information. Since 1997, another station has been open in St. Paul, MN to serve members of the Mille Lacs Band. Since 1998, FDL has issued tags and registered deer to members from the Wisconsin and Mille Lacs bands from their offices.

The number of hunters in 2009 (Table 1, Figure 3) was 267 more than the number of deer hunters in 2008 (2,226, Gilbert 2009). The number of successful hunters in 2009 (671) was 49 hunters fewer than in 2008 (720). The resulting harvest success rate declined from 32% in 2008 to 27% in 2009. This is the lowest percent successful hunters for an off-reservation deer season recorded since this report series began.

Table 1. The distribution of carcass tags and hunter success during the 2009 off-reservation treaty deer season.

TRIBE OF ENROLLMENT	DEER HUNTERS	SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL
Bad River	365	113	31.0
Lac Courte Oreilles	833	176	21.1
Lac du Flambeau	390	103	26.4
Mille Lacs	184	78	42.4
Mole Lake	154	36	23.4
Red Cliff	419	112	26.7
St. Croix	148	53	35.8
Totals	2,493	671	26.9

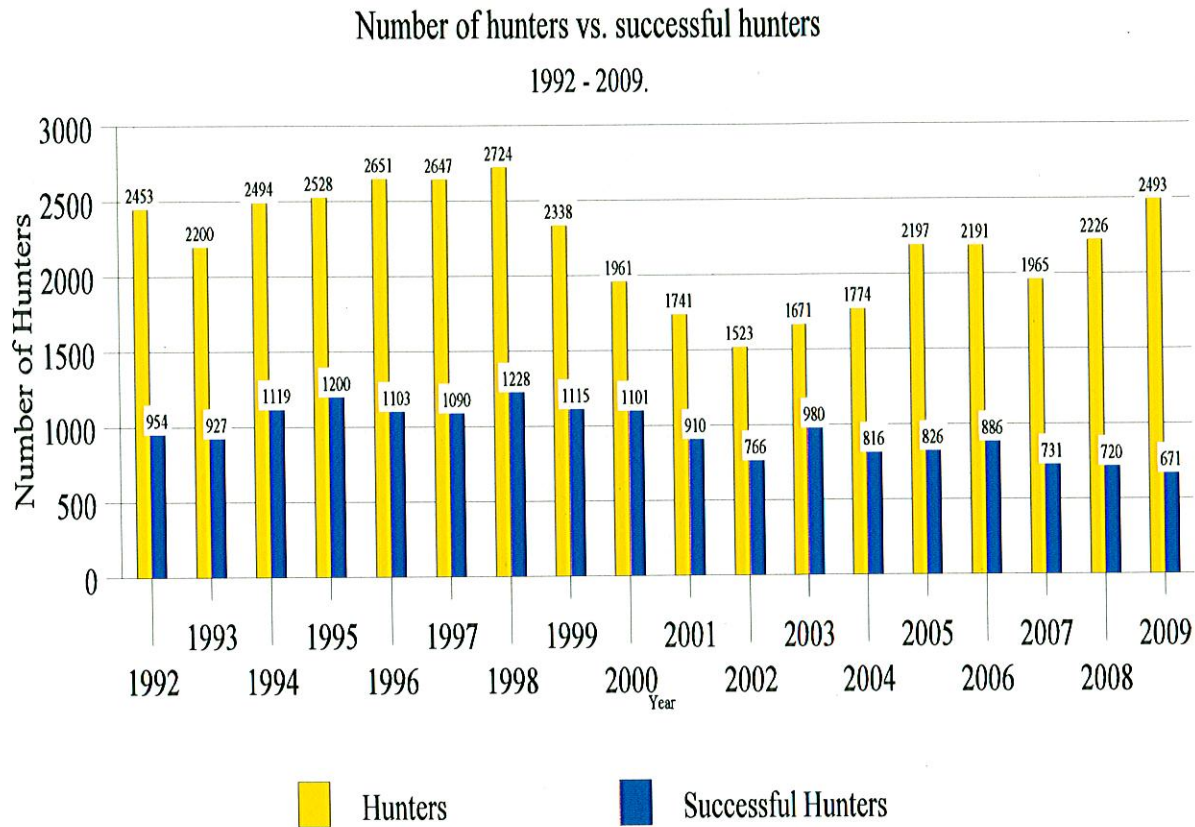


Figure 3. The number of hunters and successful hunters during off-reservation treaty deer hunting seasons from 1992 - 2009.

Deer Harvest by Registration Station

Wisconsin

The tribal deer hunt was an either sex hunt because all hunters could obtain antlerless deer permits and carcass tags throughout the season for all units. Beginning in the 2001 season, unit 7 was closed to off-reservation treaty hunting because the unit boundaries were changed to match boundaries of the Bad River Reservation. Thus, all areas of unit 7 were on-reservation and under the jurisdiction of the Bad River Tribe. Tribal antlerless deer quotas in all units were sufficient to meet demonstrated tribal harvest capacity. Tribal hunters shot 544 antlered deer (mostly adult bucks) and 842 antlerless deer (adult does and fawns) for a total harvest of 1,386 deer (Table 2a). This harvest represents a 13% decline from the 2008 harvest of 1,595 deer (Gilbert 2009).

From 1983 through 1998 around 30% of the deer harvested by tribal members during the off-reservation hunting season were antlered bucks. An increase in the antlered buck percents began in 1999 and since then until 2008 the antlered buck component of the harvest ranged between 40% and 47%. In 2009 the percent adult bucks declined to 39%.

Table 2a. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2009 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin by registration station.

STATION	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL
Bad River	74	63	0	137
Fond du Lac*	25	22	0	47
Lac Courte Oreilles	133	177	0	310
Lac du Flambeau	80	146	0	226
Mille Lacs	9	17	0	26
Mole Lake	42	83	0	125
Red Cliff	66	116	0	182
St. Croix	115	218	0	333
Totals	544	842	0	1,386

*Fond du Lac members did not hunt in Wisconsin, rather some members of Wisconsin bands or Mille Lacs, registered their Wisconsin-harvested deer at the Fond du Lac station.

Deer Harvest by Registration Station

Minnesota

A total of 164 deer harvested in Minnesota were registered by tribal members at the Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac or St. Croix deer registration stations (Table 2b). This harvest was 53 deer more than harvest in 2008 (111 deer) in the 1837 ceded territory (Gilbert 2009).

In December 2006 the Bands party to the Mille Lacs case updated their Treaty Wildlife Management Plan for the Minnesota 1837 Ceded Territory for the Years 2007 - 2011. One provision of this update was the implementation of a harvest threshold system for antlerless deer. Under this system there is no requirement for a tribal antlerless deer declaration and there is no limit on the number of antlerless deer that can be harvested. However, if in any year the antlerless deer harvest surpasses the threshold number established for that permit area, then in the subsequent year a declaration process is required for that permit area. In 2009, the threshold number was not exceeded for any permit area.

Table 2b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2009 off-reservation treaty deer season in Minnesota by registration station. Deer registered at St. Croix and Wild River State Parks during the special hunt are included in the Fond du Lac or Mille Lacs totals.

STATION	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	BUCK FAWNS	DOE FAWNS	TOTAL
Fond du Lac*	15	14	4	6	39
Mille Lacs	57	47	7	10	121
St. Croix	1	2	1	0	4
Totals	73	63	12	16	164

* Harvest figures for Fond du Lac members were from Schrage (2010).

Deer Harvest by Management Unit

Wisconsin

Although deer harvest was distributed among 46 of the 64 deer management units either entirely or partially within the ceded territory of Wisconsin (Table 3a), 1,021 deer were harvested from the 13 units in which harvest equaled or exceeded 30 deer. The number of units with 30 or more deer harvested was four less than in 2008.

Since 1991, the number of deer management units with large harvests (>100 deer) has ranged between 4 and 12 units. In 2009 there were 4 units with greater than 100 deer harvested (a decrease from 5 in 2008). The four units were (in descending order): 3, 10, 11, and 2 (Table 3a, Figure 4). These are units where tribal members prefer to hunt, are close to reservations, have a large amount of public land, and have adequate antlerless deer quotas to meet tribal needs.

Table 3a. Number of antlered, antlerless and total deer harvested in Wisconsin during the 2009 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer management unit.

UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
01	7	6	0	13
02	40	64	0	104
03	83	118	0	201
04	12	12	0	24
05	17	27	0	44
06	17	12	0	29
08	18	32	0	50
09	27	34	0	61
10	38	100	0	138
11	45	80	0	125
12	16	25	0	41
13	35	51	0	86
14	0	1	0	1
15	12	18	0	30
16	9	9	0	18
17	13	8	0	21
18	19	6	0	25
19	0	8	0	8
20	3	3	0	6
21	2	3	0	5
22	5	0	0	5
22 A	0	0	0	0
23	6	2	0	8
24	0	0	0	0
25	2	0	0	2
26	0	0	0	0
27	0	0	0	0
28	5	6	0	11
29A	1	8	0	9
29B	8	8	0	16

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UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
30	5	9	0	14
31	11	23	0	34
32	2	7	0	9
33	1	3	0	4
34	7	12	0	19
35	6	19	0	25
36	17	35	0	52
37	9	3	0	12
38	4	8	0	12
39	5	9	0	14
40	1	3	0	4
42	2	4	0	6
43	4	7	0	11
44	18	37	0	55
45	7	19	0	26
46	2	0	0	2
47	0	0	0	0
48	0	0	0	0
49A	1	0	0	1
49B	0	0	0	0
50	0	0	0	0
52	1	0	0	1
57	0	0	0	0
57A	0	0	0	0
57B	0	0	0	0
57C	0	0	0	0
58	0	1	0	1
59A	0	2	0	2
59B	0	0	0	0
62A	0	0	0	0
62B	0	0	0	0
78	0	0	0	0
79	0	0	0	0
Unknown	1	0	0	1
Totals	544	842	0	1,386

Deer Harvest by Management Unit

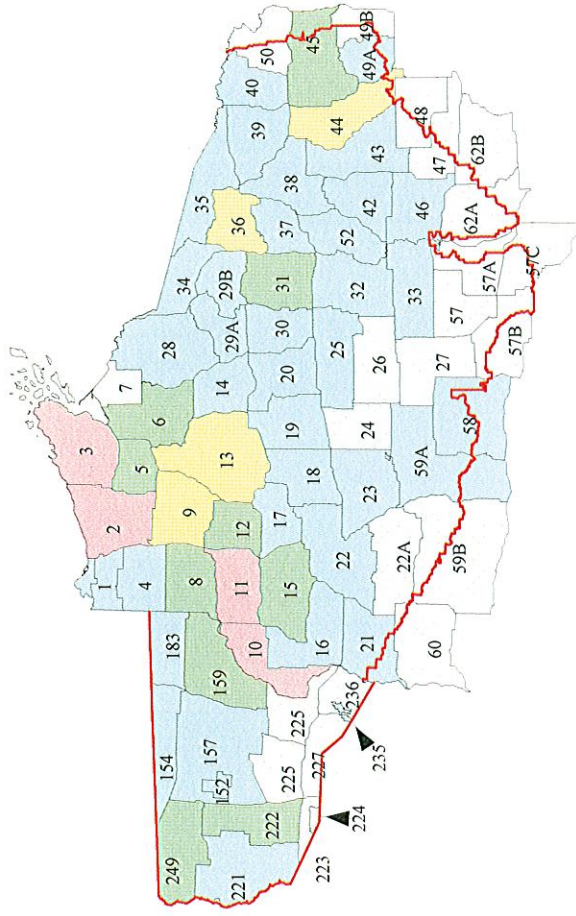
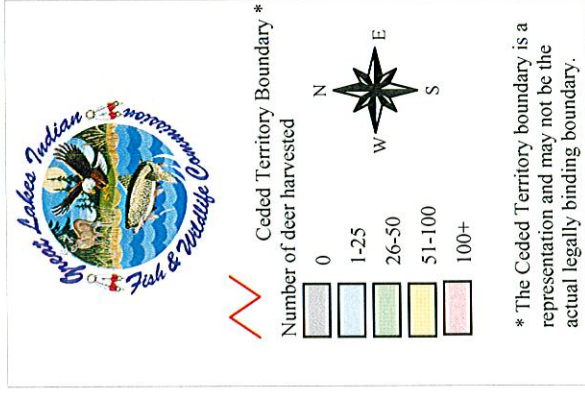
Minnesota

Fifteen deer permit areas, and two state parks, are either partially or entirely in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota. A total of 164 deer were harvested by tribal members from 9 of those permit areas and in 2 state parks in 2009 (Table 3b, Figure 4). The majority of the deer harvested (122 deer) came from the tier of permit areas along the northern border of the ceded territory (Permit areas 152 through 183, plus area 249 and St. Croix State Park). These northern-most areas are closer to reservations and have relatively large amounts of public land open to hunting, factors which have been observed to influence tribal harvest patterns in Wisconsin and now in Minnesota. About 26% of the harvested deer came from the more southern permit areas (24 deer).

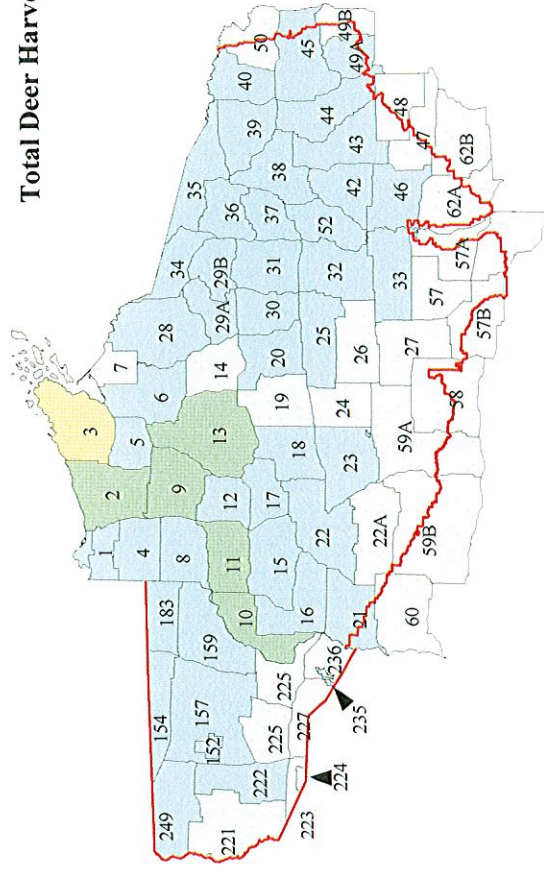
Table 3b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Minnesota during the 2009 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer permit area.

UNIT**	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	FAWN BUCK	FAWN DOE	TOTAL
152	1	0	0	1	2
154	1	0	0	0	1
156	5	8	1	0	14
157	6	7	0	2	15
159	15	10	1	2	28
183	4	4	1	1	10
221	0	0	1	0	1
222	16	12	0	2	30
223	0	0	0	0	0
224	0	0	0	0	0
225	0	0	0	0	0
227	0	0	0	0	0
235	1	0	0	0	1
236	0	0	0	0	0
249	16	18	6	3	43
St. Croix S. P.	3	3	1	1	8
Wild River S. P.	4	1	1	4	10
Unknown	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	73	63	12	16	164

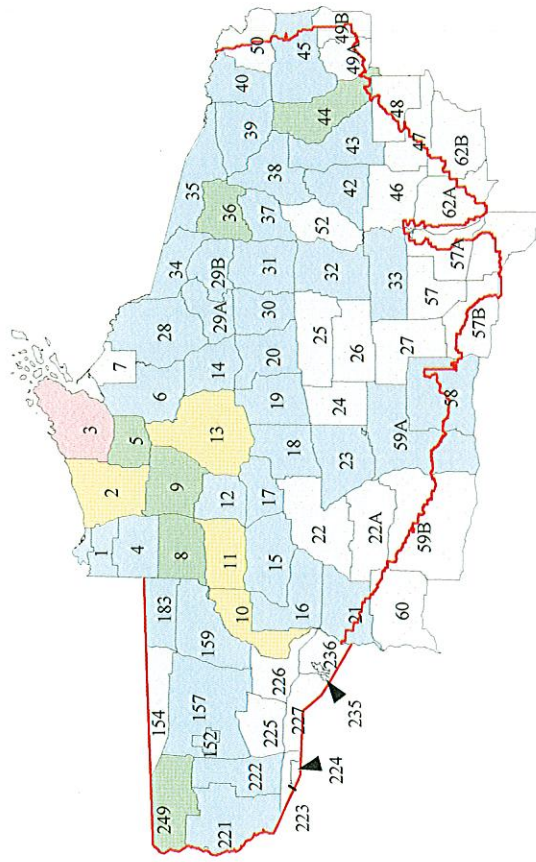
** Unit numbers starting with the digit 1 are in the northern part of the ceded territory while those starting with the digit 2 are mostly in the southern part of the ceded territory.



Total Deer Harvest, 2009



Antlered Deer Harvest, 2009



Antlerless Deer Harvest, 2009

Figure 4. Harvest patterns of antlerless deer, antlered bucks and total deer harvest in deer management units in the Wisconsin and Minnesota 1837 and 1842 ceded territories.

Deer Harvest by County

Wisconsin

Harvest during the 2009 off-reservation treaty deer season was distributed among 22 counties in Wisconsin (Table 4a). However, 1,079 deer or 78% of the total Wisconsin tribal harvest occurred in the 6 counties where harvest was greater than 100 deer. These counties were in declining order of harvest: Burnett, Bayfield, Douglas, Forest, Sawyer and Vilas (Figure 5). The list of more heavily harvested counties was the same as in 2008.

Table 4a. Number of antlered, antlerless and total deer harvested in Wisconsin during the 2009 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTALS
Ashland	14	8	0	22
Barron	6	3	0	9
Bayfield	115	169	0	284
Burnett	102	217	0	319
Chippewa	2	0	0	2
Douglas	74	88	0	162
Eau Claire	0	3	0	3
Florence	0	2	0	2
Forest	31	75	0	106
Iron	10	16	0	26
Langlade	8	4	0	12
Lincoln	3	7	0	10
Marathon	1	3	0	4
Marinette	0	1	0	1
Oneida	27	34	0	61
Polk	13	11	0	24
Price	10	9	0	19
Rusk	17	7	0	24
Sawyer	44	61	0	105
St. Croix	0	1	0	1
Vilas	31	72	0	103
Washburn	35	51	0	86
Unknown	1	0	0	1
Totals	544	842	0	1,386

Deer Harvest by County

Minnesota

For about 13% of the deer harvested in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, no county of harvest was reported. When the county of harvest was noted, Mille Lacs County had the most deer registered (Table 4b, Figure 5) followed by Pine County. These counties are close to reservations and contain much public land. These same factors have been noted in Wisconsin as important in influencing the level of tribal harvest.

Table 4b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Minnesota during the 2009 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	BUCK FAWN	DOE FAWN	TOTALS
Aitkin	6	6	1	0	13
Chisago	4	1	1	4	10
Mille Lacs	25	26	6	7	64
Morrison	12	9	0	1	22
Pine	18	11	2	3	34
Unknown*	8	10	2	1	21
Totals	73	63	12	16	164

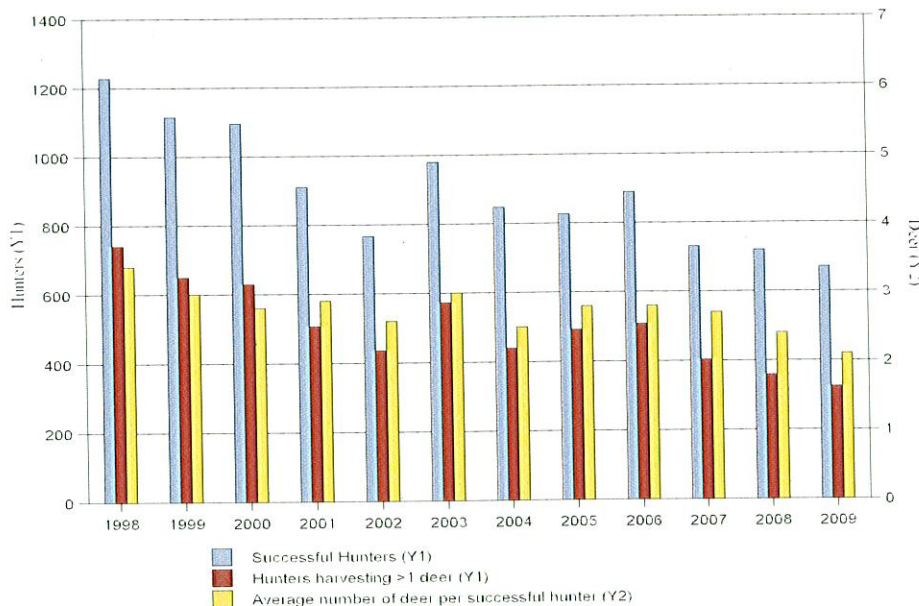
* Schrage (2009) did not report county of harvest, except for St. Croix State Park (Pine County) and Wild River State Park (Chisago County).

Deer Harvested per Successful Hunter

Registration data permitted the analysis of the number of deer harvested by each tribal member for all tribes except Fond du Lac. The number of successful hunters decreased from 720 in 2008 to 671 in 2009 (Table 5 and Figure 6). The number of hunters who shot more than 1 deer declined from 358 (2008) to 324 (2009). The mean number of deer shot per successful hunter declined from 2.4 (2008) to 2.1 (2009). These figures do not include information for Fond du Lac hunters.

Table 5 and Figure 6. Trends for 3 measures of deer hunting success from 1998 through 2009.

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of Successful Hunters	1,228	1,115	1,101	910	766	980	847	826	889	731	720	671
Number of Hunters who Shot > 1 Deer	740	649	629	513	435	572	438	491	507	402	358	324
Mean Number of Deer Shot per Successful Hunter	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.6	3.0	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.1



During the 2009 off-reservation treaty deer season 50% of successful hunters shot more than 1 deer while 12 hunters shot 10 or more deer (Table 6). Many tribal hunters provide meat to an extended family and thus, preserving the ability to harvest multiple deer has been an on-going goal of the off-reservation deer season structure. The table below includes Mille Lacs hunters, whether hunting in Minnesota or Wisconsin; it does not include Fond du Lac members hunting in Minnesota.

Table 6. Number of successful hunters and the number of deer they harvested during the 2009 off-reservation treaty deer season.

NUMBER OF DEER	NUMBER OF HUNTERS	PERCENT OF HUNTERS	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEER
1	338	50.4%	338
2	158	23.6%	316
3	67	10.0%	201
4	45	6.7%	180
5	20	3.0%	100
6	12	1.8%	72
7	14	2.1%	98
8	3	0.4%	24
9	1	0.1%	9
10	2	0.3%	20
11	1	0.1%	11
12	2	0.3%	24
13	3	0.4%	39
16	1	0.1%	16
20	1	0.1%	20
21	1	0.1%	21
22	1	0.1%	22
TOTALS	670	100%	1,511

Deer Harvest by Season

The percent of the harvest that occurred during the early and middle seasons was greater than the percent of the days available to hunting during those seasons (Table 7), the pattern observed since 1984, except in 2004. The late season typically has a low harvest (especially compared to the length of time available). The percent of the harvest occurring during the late season increased from 5% in 2008 to 9% in 2009. The majority of harvest typically occurs during the early season and in 2009, 69% of the total harvest was taken then.

Table 7. The number of deer harvested, percent of the harvest and percent of the season occurring the early, middle and late portions of the 2009 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Portion of Season	Number of Deer Harvested*	Percent of Harvest	Percent of Season
Early Season Sept. 4 - Nov. 16	1047	69%	67%
Middle Season Nov. 17 - Nov. 26	332	22%	8%
Late Season Nov. 27 - Dec. 31	141	9%	25%

* Total number of deer on this table may not equal the total deer harvest because 1 or more deer may not have had the date of harvest noted.

Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

Wisconsin

The tribes harvested 13% of the declared tribal deer quota (6,408 antlerless deer) in 2009 (Table 8a). The percent of the quota harvested ranged from a high of 36% in Unit 11 to 0% in some of the ceded territory southern fringe units. No units surpassed 75% of the quota, the harvest level which triggers a limitation on the number of antlerless deer permits available.

Table 8a. The tribal antlerless deer quota, the number of antlerless deer harvested, and the percent of the quota harvested during the 2009 treaty deer season in Wisconsin by unit and overall.

Unit	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
01	6	55	10.9%
02	64	440	14.5%
03	118	440	26.8%
04	12	83	14.5%
05	27	550	4.9%
06	12	55	21.8%
08	32	330	9.7%
09	34	220	15.5%
10	100	330	30.3%
11	80	220	36.4%
12	25	165	15.2%
13	51	275	18.5%
14	1	83	1.2%
15	18	165	10.9%
16	9	55	16.4%
17	8	83	9.6%
18	6	83	7.2%
19	8	28	28.6%
20	3	28	10.7%
21	3	55	5.5%
22	0	55	0.0%
22A	0	28	0.0%
23	2	28	7.1%
24	0	28	0.0%
25	0	28	0.0%
26	0	28	0.0%
27	0	28	0.0%

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Unit	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
28	6	83	7.2%
29A	8	83	9.6%
29B	8	50	16.0%
30	9	83	10.8%
31	23	165	13.9%
32	7	28	25.0%
33	3	28	10.7%
34	12	162	7.4%
35	19	275	6.9%
36	35	275	12.7%
37	3	55	5.5%
38	8	110	7.3%
39	9	75	12.0%
40	3	110	2.7%
42	4	28	14.3%
43	7	83	8.4%
44	37	165	22.4%
45	19	110	17.3%
46	0	28	0.0%
47	0	28	0.0%
48	0	11	0.0%
49A	0	28	0.0%
49B	0	28	0.0%
50	0	28	0.0%
52	0	28	0.0%
57	0	28	0.0%
57A	0	28	0.0%
57B	0	28	0.0%
57C	0	28	0.0%
58	1	28	3.6%
59A	2	28	7.1%
59B	0	28	0.0%
62A	0	28	0.0%
62B	0	28	0.0%
78	0	28	0.0%
79	0	15	0.0%
Totals	842	6,408	13.1%

Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

Minnesota

In 2007 a harvest threshold system was put into place in the Minnesota portion of the 1837 ceded territory. Under this system there is no harvest quota established and no declaration submitted to MNDNR as in Wisconsin. Rather the harvest is monitored and a decision is made each year if the harvest in the previous year was high enough to warrant a declaration and tribal quota. This decision was based on the comparison of harvest to a threshold level established by the Wildlife Management Plan for the MN Portion of the 1837 Ceded Territory (Table 8b). A declaration is still required for participation in State Park special hunts (i.e., St. Croix State Park and Wild River State Park). These declarations are for a number of hunters, not number of antlerless deer. In these state park special hunts hunting opportunity is limited by hunter density and not by desired harvest.

The tribal harvest in all permit areas was below the threshold level and thus there will be no need for a tribal declaration or tribal quota for 2010. Permit area 249 had the highest antlerless deer harvest in 2009 followed by permit area 222.

Table 8b. The tribal antlerless deer threshold and the number of antlerless deer harvested during the 2009 treaty deer season in Minnesota by permit area.

Permit Area	Antlerless Deer Harvest*	Antlerless Deer Threshold
152	1	25
154	0	100
156	9	100
157	9	100
159	12	100
183	6	100
221	1	100
222	14	100
223	0	100
224	0	25
225	0	100
227	0	100
235	0	25
236	0	100
249	27	100
Totals	79	1275

* Includes harvest by Fond du Lac, reported by Schrage (2010).

BEAR HUNTING RESULTS

Tribal bear hunting regulations for members hunting in Wisconsin were previously enacted to comply with the rulings and stipulations resulting from the May 1990 Federal Court (7th Circuit) decision. In the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, season regulations were enacted to comply with the March 1997 Federal Court (8th Circuit) decision and the Treaty Wildlife Management Plan for the Minnesota 1837 Ceded Territory. Bear hunting permits were required for all persons engaged in hunting bears. All bears killed were required to be tagged using a tribal carcass tag and registered at a tribal registration station. Lac Courte Oreilles prohibited its members from hunting bears in 2009 and did not issue permits or register bears harvested by members of other tribes. Mole Lake only issued permits to Mole Lake members. Mille Lacs did not issue any bear tags to any tribal member in Minnesota. A tribal quota was declared for each of the 3 bear zones (Figure 8) in the Wisconsin ceded territory; 115 in zone A, 45 in zone B and 25 in zone C. A threshold system, similar for antlerless deer, was employed for bear hunting in Minnesota and thus, no quotas were established. No bears were harvested in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota nor in Zone C of Wisconsin, thus, harvest data in the remainder of this report are for Zones A and B in Wisconsin only.

A total of 759 tribal members obtained a permit to hunt bears in 2009 (Table 9), a decline of 69 hunters from the 2008 level (Gilbert 2009). There were 26 successful bear hunters in 2009 or 3% of the number of bear hunters. Bear hunter success has fluctuated between 2% and 7%. More people checked bear hunting on the harvest permit than obtained carcass tags indicating that they did not hunt bears. This pattern has been consistently observed in previous bear hunting seasons.

Table 9. Number of carcass tags and hunters during the 2009 off-reservation treaty bear hunting season in Wisconsin.

Tribe of Enrollement	Number of Hunters	Number of Successful Hunters	Percent Successful Hunters
Bad River	158	1	1%
Lac Courte Oreilles	20	0	0%
Lac du Flambeau	230	5	2%
Mille Lacs	4	0	0%
Mole Lake	44	3	7%
Red Cliff	224	16	7%
St. Croix	79	1	1%
Totals	759	26	3%

Harvest by Registration Station

A total of 39 bears were harvested during the 2009 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin (Table 10), a decline of 3 bears from 2008 (Gilbert 2008). During each of the 13 previous years, except in 1995, tribal members harvested more males than females particularly in 1997 when 3 times as many males as females were taken. This trend continued in 2009.

Table 10. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2009 off-reservation treaty bear season by registration station.

STATION	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	9	0	9
Fond du Lac	4	0	4
Lac Courte Oreilles	0	0	0
Lac du Flambeau	5	3	8
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	1	2	3
Red Cliff	5	7	12
St. Croix	1	2	3
Totals	25	14	39

*Fond du Lac members did not hunt in Wisconsin, rather some members of Wisconsin bands registered their Wisconsin-harvested bears at the Fond du Lac station.

Harvest by Zone and Deer Management Unit

A total of 29 bears (19 males, 10 females) were harvested in Zone A plus 10 bears (6 males, 4 females) were harvested in Zone B (Table 11). This harvest represented 25% of the tribal quota for Zone A and 22% of the quota for Zone B.

Table 11. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2009 off-reservation treaty bear season in bear Zones A and B and in deer management units within these zones.

Zone	Unit	Male	Female	Total
Zone A Quota 115	1	1	0	1
	2	3	0	3
	3	6	6	12
	4	1	0	1
	5	0	1	1
	6	4	0	4
	9	1	0	1
	11	1	1	2
	14	1	0	1
	32	0	1	1
	Unknown	1	1	2
Total		19	10	29
Zone B Quota 45	37	0	1	1
	38	3	0	3
	39	0	1	1
	44	3	1	4
	45	0	1	1
Total		6	4	10
Unknown		0	0	0
Grand Total		25	14	39

Harvest by County

The 2009 tribal bear harvest was distributed among 8 counties in northern Wisconsin (Table 12, Figure 6). The leading county of harvest was Bayfield County followed by Ashland, and Oneida.

Table 12. The sex distribution and total number of bears harvested by County in Wisconsin during the 2009 off-reservation treaty bear season.

County	Male	Female	Total
Ashland	6	0	6
Bayfield	8	8	16
Burnett	1	1	2
Douglas	4	0	4
Forest	2	2	4
Langlade	0	1	1
Lincoln	0	1	1
Oneida	4	1	5
Totals	25	14	39

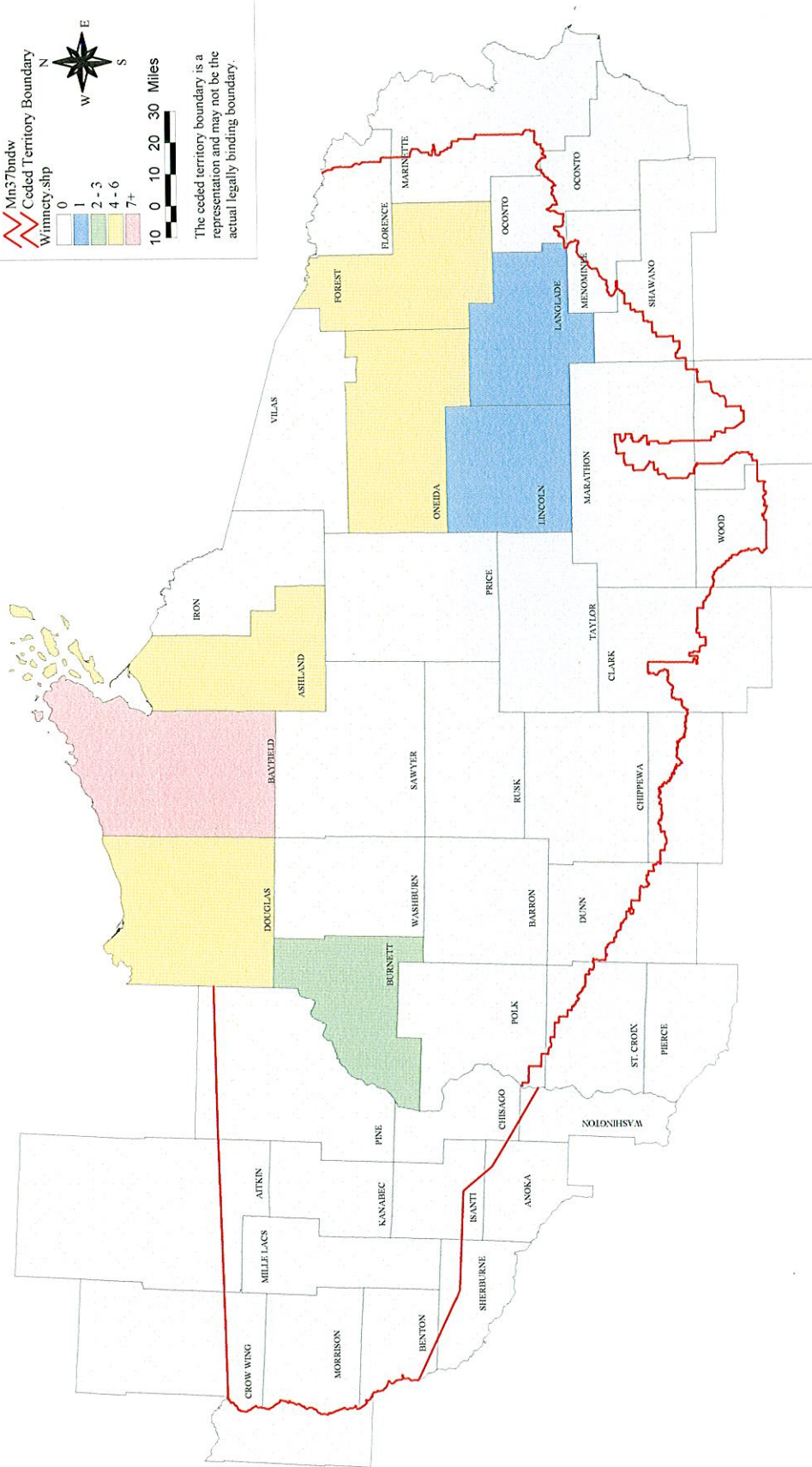
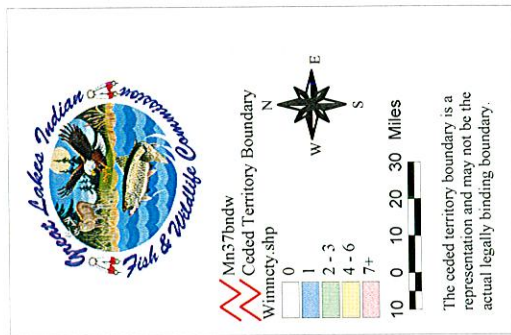


Figure 6. Number of bears harvested during the 2009 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin and Minnesota counties.

Literature Cited

- Falck, M. 2009. Results of the off reservation treaty wawashkishi (deer) and makwa (bear) hunting seasons in Michigan. Administrative Report Number 09-7. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah, WI.
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